

SA 4712. Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5493, to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:
SEC. ____ TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO SENATE PAY PERIODS.

(a) TITLE 18.—Section 207(e)(7) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “at least 60 days” and inserting “more than 2 months”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “at least 60 days” and inserting “more than 2 months”.

(b) SENATE RULES.—Paragraph 9(c) of rule XXXVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “more than 60 days in a calendar year” and inserting “more than 2 months, in the aggregate, during the 1-year period before that former officer’s or employee’s service as such officer or employee was terminated”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on development of oil shale resources.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to

Gina.Weinstock@energy.Senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Patty Beneke at 202-224-5451 or Gina Weinstock at 202-224-5684.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a business meeting on Wednesday, May 7, at 9:45 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to consider pending bills on its shortlist of Agenda items.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on

Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Perchlorate and TCE in Water.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Seizing the New Opportunity for Health Reform”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Holocaust era insurance restitution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on the nomination of Michael E. Leiter to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Policing Lenders and Protecting Homeowners: Is Misconduct in Bankruptcy Fueling the Foreclosure Crisis?” on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Davis, an intern with the Republican Conference, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the month.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kim Allen, a staffer for the Republican Conference, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that David Greenwald, of my Finance Committee staff, be granted the privileges of the floor during the month of May.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Maria Honeycutt, a Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Senator BILL NELSON, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the Senate’s consideration of S. 2284, the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT OF SALARIES IN OR UNDER THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5493 and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5493) to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the amendment that I am offering on behalf of myself and Senator MCCONNELL addresses technical issues with respect to the “cooling-off period” for senior staff members.

Under title 18 and the Senate rules, staff members whose salary is above a certain threshold are prohibited from lobbying the Senate for a period of 1 year. One of the reforms in S. 1, the ethics reform bill we enacted last year, was to broaden the scope of the ban—senior staff members who were previously prohibited from lobbying individual Senate offices for a year are now prohibited from lobbying the entire Senate.

However, we have been made aware of an unintended consequence of the law: some junior staff members who receive salary bonuses over a period of 2 months are inadvertently covered by the lobbying ban, which is now even more sweeping. The Reid-McConnell amendment addresses this problem by providing that a staff member whose